

# **Irrigation Advisory Council Minutes**

**February 6, 2025**

## **Call to Order**

---

### **Introductions**

Mr. James Garvin Called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. Members of the council that are present included Mr. James Garvin, Mr. Norm Werback, Mr. DJ Seeger, Mr. Sergio Martinez, Ms. Paula Szymanski, Mr. Remmington Holt, and Ms. Monique Cogburn; members absent included Mr. Mark Peterson and Mr. Jimmy Burgdorf.

Mr. Garvin started the nominations for IAC Chair, submitting his name as a nominee. Mr. Werback also nominated himself, as did Mr. Martinez. A vote was called for at 9:11 am, votes for Mr. Werback were counted at zero, votes for Mr. Martinez were one (himself), and votes for Mr. Garvin were 7, unanimous. The nominations for Vice Chair started at 9:14 am. Mr. Werback nominated himself for Vice Chair, followed by Ms. Szymanski. Voting began at 9:14 am for Vice Chair. Three votes for Mr. Werback included himself, Mr. Seeger, and Mr. Holt, and Mr. Martinez; the votes for Ms. Szymanski were herself, Mr. Garvin, and Ms. Cogburn.

34 public members were present, along with TCEQ staff (Mr. Thomas Minucci, Ms. Jayme Martone, Mr. Joseph Hopkins, Mr. Paul Munguia, Ms. Katherine McGlaughlin).

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The previous meetings minutes were approved at 9:16 am. They were approved by Mr. Seeger, and seconded by Mr. Werback.

## **TCEQ Program Updates**

---

### **Cross-Connection Control**

Ms. Katherine McGlaughlin gave the Cross-Connection Control Program updates. They continue to receive a lot of emails and calls, asking about rule requirements. They are conducting a training event in San Antonio for backflow, for more information send contact the program. They are also having an event in Eagle Pass with the local water provider. March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9 am is the date of the next Cross-Connection Control subcommittee. Their contact information is PDWS@tceq.texas.gov.

### **Occupational Licensing**

Mr. Paul Munguia gave the Occupational Licensing program update. He spoke about the recent rule changes fingerprinting, retaking classes, etc. He also said that licenses will now be sending out flyers via email, unless no email is on file then it will be sent the traditional method. There is now the option to have personal information, such as a licensee's address and contact information shown publicly when searching by licenses, to opt-in for this you will need to fill out a form on their website.

### **Landscape Irrigation Program**

There were fourteen approved investigations, and twenty one total received complaints. Ms. Jayme Martone touched on the program's recent outreach at Houston-Gulf Coast Association Expo back in the fall, and the recent trip to the Dallas for the Dallas Irrigation Association Expo.

## **Discussion on work-group progress**

---

### **Web Content Work Group**

Mr. Seeger gave the update that they are waiting for management to give approvals, he also requested a headshot and a short bio from all the IAC members. He also asked that the new consent form from licensing be added to the LIP webpage. Mr. Garvin was unable to stay on the work group due to work commitments, so he will be removed from the work group. Mr. Seeger will be the chair of this work group.

### **Survey Work Group**

Ms. Donna Starling, former member, gave the update on the irrigator survey. She stated that the best way to ensure irrigation systems are operating properly we [the IAC] need to make sure licensed inspectors are actually doing the inspections. They are focused on the local municipalities doing inspections, also want to allow licensed irrigators to be able to conduct inspections not just irrigation inspectors. Ms. Szymanski (chair of the work group), Mr. Swanson, Ms. Starling and Mr. Seeger will lead the survey work group.

### **RG-466**

A new workgroup was created to overhaul the regulatory guidance document. The group consist of Mr. Swanson, Mr. Werback, Mr. Martinez, Mr. Seeger, Mr. Justin Lewis and Mr. Holt. Mr. Werback will be chair of this work group.

## **New Business**

---

### **Speaker for the IAC**

Mr. Seeger invited the conservation director of SAWS (San Antonio Water Systems) to speak at the next meeting and give a presentation on how they handle their inspections and conservation program.

### **State of the Industry Report Discussion**

Mr. Seeger asked the council if they would like to discuss the state of the industry and how they see it. He spoke on Corpus Christie, Texas, and how they are essentially out of water, really hurting the industry in that area. The topic will be listed on the monthly agenda, right after program updates.

### **Propose rule change**

Mr. Seeger started a discussion on proposed rule changes; listing requiring master valves on all systems, the requirement of pressure reducing heads/valves [having some kind of pressure regulation] but he was reminded by Mr. Swanson that there already is a rule relating to pressure (Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) chapter 344.62(c)).

### **PWS Enforcement Discussion**

Mr. Seeger asked who is able to peruse the enforcement of 344 rules/irrigation rules. Mr. Joseph Hopkins stated that he contacted the TCEQ staff attorney for more clarification but has yet to hear back. The topic will be tabled until he receives a response.

### **Irrigation license renewal**

Mr. Werback asked how to implement the requirement that there be an additional requirement to renew your license to include specific backflow trainings, he would like a hydraulics refresher as well. Mr. Munguia said that there would need to be a rule petition to include these new requirements.

### **Individuals wishing to address the Council**

---

No public members wished to address the council. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am, motion brought by Mr. DJ Seeger, and seconded by Mr. Norm Werback.